

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/522,853

Applicant(s)

HAMMER, THOMAS

Examiner

Art Unit

Jason M. Greene

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-26.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 1/31/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 9-26 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 9-12, German Patent Application Publication DE 100 57 862 C1 discloses a plasma particulate filter (50) comprising a mesh of ceramic filter material having a first set of walls (1) extending in a first direction and a second set of walls (1) extending in a second direction, the first set of walls intersecting the second set of walls to form substantially parallel inlet and outlet passages (11), the inlet and outlet passages being closed (by plugs 2) at alternate ends of the mesh, each passage having a cross-section with four corners defined by intersections of the first and second set of walls, and four active electrodes (3) provided for each inlet passage to oxidize particulates deposited within the inlet passages on the filter material within the inlet passage, the electrodes being formed at intersections of the first and second sets of walls such that for each inlet passage, an electrode is provided each of the four diagonally opposing corners, the electrodes having opposite polarities in Figs. 1-12.

The prior art made of record does not teach or fairly suggest the plasma particulate filter of claim 9 comprising precisely two active electrodes for each inlet

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passage, the electrodes being formed at intersections of the first and second sets of walls such that for each inlet passage, an electrode is provided each of two diagonally opposing corners, the electrodes having opposite polarities, and each electrodes serving two inlet passages.

With regard to claims 13-26, German Patent Application Publication DE 100 57 862 C1 discloses a plasma particulate filter (50) based on a wall flow filter comprising elongated inlet and outlet passages 911) which are closed (plugs 2) on alternate sides and which are made from ceramic filter material such that particulates are deposited on surfaces of the filter material within the inlet passages, the passages each having a cross-section with two line symmetry, and four electrodes of different polarities, lying on lines of symmetry, per inlet passage, the electrodes regenerating by filter by oxidizing the particulates through dielectric barrier sliding surface discharge in Figs. 1-12.

The prior art made of record does not teach or fairly suggest the plasma particulate filter of claim 13 comprising precisely two electrodes of different polarity, lying on one of the lines of symmetry, per inlet passage.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Manfre et al., Garner et al., Peters et al., Wang et al., Pischinger et al., JP 2004-340049, JP 2001-276561 and FR 2 842 389 references disclose similar particulate filters.


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason M. Greene whose telephone number is (571) 272-1157. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (9:00 AM to 5:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jason M. Greene
Primary Examiner
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7/7/07

jmg
July 7, 2007